Projected Demand of Steel

*167. SHRI S. AUSTIN:
SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleasde to state:

(a) the projected demand for steel in the country by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government have formulated any special scheme to meet this demand;

(c) if so. the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Projected domestic demand of finished steel by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1996-97) is 20.74 million tonnes.

(b) to (d) In order to meet the increasing demand of steel, Government have taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants has been taken up. Government also have adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacities in the Private Sector. These include:

(i) removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for public sector;

(ii) exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing.

(iii) inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industries for purposes of foreign investment;

(iv) de-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel;

(v) redution of duty on import of capital goods; and

(vi) liberalisation of import and export policy.

Hunger Strike by Research Scholars of Delhi University

*168. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some research scholars of Delhi University resorted to an indefinite hunger strike outside the office of UGC in February-March, 1995;

(b) if so, the names of such scholars with reasons therefor;

(c) whether the demands of strikers included relaxations with regard to the National Eligibility Test for appointment of lecturers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any decision on these demands has since been taken; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (f) According to the information furnished by the UGC, one Shri Ashok Kumar Nayak addressed a letter to the UGC on 1-2-1995 stating that in case the relaxations sought by Delhi University in regard to the National Education Test (NET) are not allowed by the Commission, he would go on an indefinite fast w.e.f. 13-2-1995.

The demands of Shri Nayak included a request for exemption from NET for a number of categories of persons working as Lecturers on permanent|temporary| ad-hoc basis in the Delhi University; for persons holding M.Phil|Ph.D. degree; and for posts in subjects for which no NET is conducted by the UGC|CSIR.

Another major demand made by Shri Nayak related to the lowering of minimum percentage of marks at the Marters level from 55 per cent to 50 per cent. for appearing in the NET.

Shri Nayak was assured by the Chairperson of the UGC that the above matter would be considered by the Commission in its meeting to be held on 14-2-1995 and appropriate decisions in this regard would be taken. Despite this, Shri Nayak went on indefinite fast w.e.f. 13-2-1995 in support of his demands.

The UGC in its meeting dated 14-2-1995 considered the abovementioned demands regarding NET in the light of Supreme Court decision dated 8-9-1994 upholding the UGC Regulation on NET and took the following decisions:—

(i) Relaxation for M.Phil|Ph.D. degree holders who required M. Phil by 31-12-1992, or submitted Ph.D. thesis by 31.12.1993, has already been granted. The UGC did not consider further extension desirable.

(ii) Exemption in the case of permanent Lecturers appointed prior to the revision of pay scales has already been granted in February, 1994. Exemption may also be granted to persons working against permanent posts from a date prior to 19 September, 1991 i.e. the date of enforcement of UGC Regulation on NET;

(iii) Temporary Lecturers appointed prior to the enforcement of the UGC Regulations on NET may be exempted from the NET, provided that their appointmant was made on the recommdaton of a duly constituted Selection Committee;

(iv) Exemption in the case of adhoc appointees was not considered desirable by he UGC;

(v) For posts in subjects for which UGC|CSIR may not be holding NET, prior approval of the Commission may be obtained in individual cases;

(vi) As regards reduction of qualifying percentage of marks at the Masters level from 55 per cent to 50 per cent, the UGC decided that exemption could be given only for; (a) persons, who had cleared the UGC|CSIR eligibility prior to the enforcement of UGC Regulation on NET, when the minimum qualifying marks to 50 per cent; (b) SC|ST candidates with the prior approval of the Commission, in case sufficient number of SC|ST candidates with 55 per cent marks were not available for reserved seats; and (c) persons regularly appointed through duly constituted Selection Committee and wroking as Lecturers from a date prior to the enforcement of UGC Regulation tn NET. The Commission did not favour relaxation of the minimum percentage for all Ph.D.|M.Phil degree holders who acquired such degrees upto 12-5-93, as proposed by the Delhi University.

Water Scarcity

*169. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the "Economic Times" of 22nd February, 1995 under the caption "Non-Government Organisation predicts water scarcity by 2025";

(b) if so, whether Government agreed with the perception;

(c) whether some comprehensive study team has been conducted by Government on the subject;

(d) if so, what are its findings and whether any long term plan has been formulated to meet the water requirements of the nation over a long period;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?